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(NC Consumers Council  
for identification only)

March 19, 1999

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Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville MD 20852

Dear Sir or Madam:

Concerning Docket #98N-1038, "Irradiation in the production, processing and handling of food" :

Irradiation of food has been studied and attempted for at least 20 years to my knowledge, and major problems still remain. So it is unwise and irresponsible for you to allow such foods on the market without even an identifying label AND logo.

Animal studies of such foods have identified "irradiation by-products" which kill the rats and mice exposed to steady diets of irradiated products such as meat, milk and even fruits and vegetables.

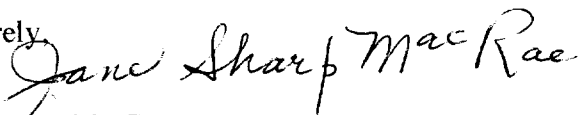
The workers in the irradiation facilities are at risk if someone forgets to lock a door or turn on an alarm to prevent walking into a high radiation area--we had at least one instance of this some years ago.

Handling and moving the radioactive materials from the nuclear plants where they are generated to the irradiation facilities where they are used is also a dangerous task where small mis-steps or accidents can expose workers to hazardous radiation.

Please continue to require clear, readable labels and logos on all irradiated foods, spices, and any other products for human use. This risky technology is not for forgetful, fallible humans--either to eat or to handle. If you must permit it, at least let us decide whether or not we want to participate in this "human guinea pig experiment".

Thank you for a reply with your decision on labelling irradiated foods, as early as possible.

Sincerely,



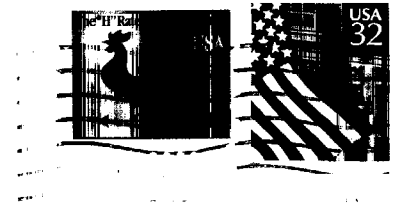
Jane Sharp-MacRae

cc: Allen Spalt, Agricultural Research Council  
Senator Jesse Helms  
Senator John Edwards  
Representative David Price  
NCCC President Mickael Rulison

98N-1038

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